



My name is Susan Sarmiento, and I am a parent of two children, and I live in Hartford as a proud neighbor from Behind the Rocks. I am a leader in my community in different organizations and today I am here as a member of the Fight Back Committee of Make the Road CT .

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Today I come to you representing the many parents and families that struggle every day to access quality, affordable health care with minimal consequences.

In our state of Connecticut there are around 120,000 that haven't access to health insurance.

In my own experience I can say that our immigrant community suffers a lot from this situation,

My father, a hard-working man who lived in this country for more than 35 years, worked hard for his family and gave everything for the education and well-being of his children, was forced to return to his country of origin since once he could not he was able to work more due to an advanced age of 75 years he had no insurance and with the needs of an elderly person he had no choice but to return to his country leaving his 7 grandchildren, his 4 children and his wife, my father paid all his taxes The years he lived in this country and contributed to the economy of this country and he had the right to be able to live a quiet life in the company of his children and family receiving medical attention that is worthy.

Working in the community I see the injustice that young people, adults and the elderly must face when it comes to access to health care and let's not even talk about how this impacts a person's

mental health. Families praying that no one gets sick or that no one gets in an accident, being faced with decisions if they have to spend money it will be for the children and leaving aside their own health because they know that they can't afford a medical visit. Our Community deserves better health care and the reality that right now it's not enough. Many undocumented families pay their taxes (as they should be) contribute to the economy of this country, contribute to their communities and deserve better health care.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Susan Sarmiento